



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
January 20, 2010

Meeting Summary

An update on the skate park remodel was provided. Discussion began on youth sports league ball field usage.

Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) was called to order by Chair Wynn Eberhard at 6:35 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2010, in the Aspen Conference Room at the Paul Derda Recreation Center (PDRC).

Present: Dick Miller, Wynn Eberhard, Kathy Dolan, Doug Malcolm, Sarah Davenport, Jaci Gould

Absent: Jini Bates

Others in Attendance: Martha Derda, ex officio
Ronda Jo Ackerman-Alford, CIP Manager
Nancy Harrold, Facilities Manager
John Ferraro, Director of Recreation Services
Ellen Cancino, Recording Secretary

Agenda Minutes

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Daniel Carpenter and April Muir, representing Broomfield Junior Soccer Club, and Lisa Hamilton and Kendra Renyer, representing Broomfield Baseball League, attended the meeting. They stated they were there to observe the Committee and learn more about the decision-making process.

SKATE PARK REMODEL UPDATE

Ronda Jo Ackerman Alford of the city's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) division provided an update on the progress of the skate park remodel. She provided drawings of the design, as well. In December 2009, a community meeting with approximately 50 residents attending was held. The plans were well received.

Ronda Jo said that the design will feature two bowls—a smaller one for novice skaters and a larger, deeper one for more experienced skaters. The section on one end will have a variety of platforms, etc. The park is being designed for beginner and moderate skill levels. Every attempt is being made to incorporate features unique for skate parks in this area.

She added that the fencing around the park will be removed. Skaters requested that the lights be on more frequently. John felt that the lights would most likely be on timers that could be controlled remotely.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Boards and commissions appointment schedule. Four members of the Committee have terms that expire March 31, 2010. Ellen informed them that if they wish to continue serving, they are required to reapply and be appointed by City Council. The application is available on-line; the deadline to apply is February 5.

Martha commented that City Council discussed the appointment process and has streamlined it to not be so time-consuming. Appointments will be made on March 23.

Ball field usage. At a City Council study session on December 1, 2009, staff provided information on the usage of city ball fields by youth sports leagues, suggesting that (excerpt from the Study Session memo):

“City Council may want to consider additional steps to address the likely scenario in which there are not sufficient fields to accommodate the demands of the sanctioned youth leagues. Potential actions include:

- Reprioritization of the 5-year Capital Improvement Program to construct additional fields;
- Limitations on participation by non-residents;
- Financial incentives to discourage participation by non-residents; or
- Some other method to provide adequate fields for youth leagues in Broomfield as may be suggested by others.”

Following that discussion, direction was given to have PRAC look at current policy regarding areas of availability, priority use and fees. There would be no changes for 2010.

John gave some background on the necessity for and the development process for the Rules for League Use of Ball Fields, adopted by City Council in 2004 and amended twice. The original Rules focused on residency requirements in an effort to cater to and serve primarily Broomfield youth. Leagues were required to submit rosters, which were checked against the city’s GIS system to determine residency.

Comments by the Committee included:

Wynn: City Council wanted to know what criteria would be used to assign fields in the future if the number of users grows.

John: Staff will need to be very creative to accommodate as many teams for practices as possible.

John: Are the Rules really needed? Other communities do not have such rules.

John: Staff would accommodate rec leagues first, then rent fields to groups

John: The priority for field assignment is: city 1st, school 2nd, rec leagues 3rd, and competitive leagues last.

Doug, Sara: How will increase in number of teams be addressed in the future?

John: New fields.

John: It costs the city \$1.2 million annually to maintain fields.

John: The current rate charged to leagues, per player, is \$10 for residents and \$20 for non-residents.

Doug: Has there been any talk with Thornton, Westminster, etc. regarding sharing fields?

John: No

Kathy: Will teams be turned away in 2011?

John: Not likely.

Wynn: Would dropping the Rules be considered?

John: Yes. Broomfield would enter into agreements with youth leagues.

Wynn: Rules should be in place to address insurance, personnel.

Daniel: It is helpful to have rules in place when new personnel come into leadership roles in a league.

Wynn: When residency requirements were considered for a previous revision of the Rules, Carl Boni of PRAC brought up the issue of who was paying to maintain Broomfield's fields.

Wynn: Committee must determine what is to be accomplished. A flexible system should be put into place so the policy can go with the ebb and flow and not have to return to Council for changes.

Kathy: Would like to see a history of why the Rules were needed initially.

Doug: If new fields are going to be built, all users should help to pay for them.

John provided spreadsheets with information on who is currently using fields and a synopsis of how surrounding communities handle resident/non-resident issues.

Wynn said if the Committee was going to take on the charge of looking into methods of assigning fields to youth sports leagues and making a recommendation to Council, PRAC would like to review:

- the history of the development of the Rules document
- recreation standards from the Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan
- information on any upcoming field projects
- all fees paid by users of fields

STAFF REPORTS

PDRC end-of-year usage reports. John provided a spreadsheet showing the number of users for PDRC and the Broomfield Community Center (BCC). He noted that PDRC had nearly one-half million paying customers in 2008. That number was down in 2009, but December 2009 and January 2010 have shown an increase. The number of visitors to BCC went up in 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PROJECT UPDATES

Anthem Community Park Update. John provided a map of the area where the park is planned. It will be north and east of the reservoir. The developer, Pulte Homes, will be paying for development Phases 1 and 2.

Plans include constructing four ball fields and four athletic fields. The ball fields and tennis courts will be lighted. PRAC noted that it would be nice if some or all of the athletic fields could be artificial turf.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: DATE/AGENDA ITEMS

Date. The next meeting of the PRAC will be on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the Aspen Conference Room at the Paul Derda Recreation Center.

Agenda Items.

- Project updates
- Discussion of Rules for League Use of Ball Fields and allocation of fields

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chair

Date